IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method on a member of a computing system group for substituting members, the method comprising:

replacing an old member with a new member, wherein the old member is assigned to a subgroup and controls at least one resource;

determining if the new member is within the subgroup and is thereby able to control the at least one resource;

configuring, in response to determining if the new member is within the subgroup and is thereby able to control the at least one resource, configuring the new member to control resources the at least one resource that was were controlled by the old member;

replacing, in response to determining if the new member is not in the subgroup and is thereby not able to control the at least one resource, replacing the at least one resource with resources controlled by the new member; and

producing eonfiguring a computing group communications configuration system to accommodate replacement of the old member by the new member; and

configuring a computing group communications system with the computing group communications configuration.

- 2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the old member is a primary member of a computing system group.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the <u>replacing</u> method is performed in response to a failure of the old member.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the new member is in the subgroup, the old member was a primary member of the subgroup and the new member becomes a backup member of the subgroup, wherein the old member and the

new member are able to control the at least one resource and the new member assumes control of the at least one resource.

- 5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the old member is a backup member and wherein the new member replaces the old member in a backup priority.
- 6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method replacing is performed in response to a failure of at least one of the at least one resources.
- 7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, <u>further comprising</u> selecting a new resource to be substituted for the at least one of the at least one resource, and wherein the new member is selected based upon <u>its controlling the a new resource</u> that is selected to be substituted for the at least one of the at least one resources.
- 8. (Currently Amended) A member of a computing system group, the member comprising:

a group management component for:

selecting a new member to replace an old member, wherein the old member is assigned to a subgroup and controls at least one resource; and

determining if the new member is within the subgroup and is thereby able to control the at least one resource;

a resource controller for:

configuring, in response to determining the new member is within the subgroup and is thereby able to control the at least one resource, the new member to control resources the at least one resource that was were controlled by the old member-if the new member is within the subgroup; and

replacing, in response to determining the new member is not in the subgroup and is thereby not able to control the at least one resource, the at least one resource with resources controlled by the new member-if the new member is not in the subgroup; and

producing a computing group communications configuration to

accommodate replacement of the old member by the new member; and
a communications controller for configuring a computing group communications
system with the computing group communications configuration accommodate
replacement of the old member with the new member.

- 9. (Original) The member according to claim 8, wherein the old member is a primary member of a computing system group.
- 10. (Original) The member according to claim 8, wherein the group management component, the resource controller and the communications controller operate in response to a failure of the old member.
- 11. (Currently Amended) The member according to claim 8, wherein the new member is in the subgroup, the old member was a primary member of the subgroup and the group management component operates to cause the new member to become a backup member of the subgroup, wherein the old member and the new member are able to control the at least one resource and the new member assumes control of the at least one resource.
- 12. (Currently Amended) The member according to claim 8, wherein the old member is a backup member and wherein the new member replaces the old member in a backup priority.
- 13. (Original) The member according to claim 8, wherein the group management component, the resource controller and the communications controller operate in response to a failure of at least one of the at least one resources.
- 14. (Currently Amended) The member according to claim 13, wherein the group management controller selects a new resource to be substituted for the at least one of the

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at least one resource, and selects the new member based upon its controlling the a new resource that is selected to be substituted for the at least one of the at least one resources.

15. (Currently Amended) A signal bearing medium including a program which, when executed by a processor, performs operations for substituting members, the program being tangibly embodied in the signal bearing medium, the operations comprising:

selecting a new member to replace an old member, wherein the old member is assigned to a subgroup and controls at least one resource;

determining if the new member is within the subgroup and is thereby able to control the at least one resource;

configuring, in response to determining if the new member is within the subgroup and is thereby able to control the at least one resource, configuring the new member to control resources the at least one resource that was were controlled by the old member;

replacing, in response to determining if the new member is not in the subgroup and is thereby not able to control the at least one resource, replacing the at least one resource with resources controlled by the new member; and

producing configuring a computing group communications configuration system to accommodate replacement of the old member by the new member; and configuring a computing group communications system with the computing group communications configuration.

- 16. (Original) The signal bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the old member is a primary member of a computing system group.
- 17. (Currently Amended) The signal bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the operations are performed in response to a failure of the old member.
- 18. (Currently Amended) The signal bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the new member is in the subgroup, the old member was a primary member of the subgroup and the new member becomes a backup member of the subgroup, wherein the old member

and the new member are able to control the at least one resource and the new member assumes control of the at least one resource.

- 19. (Currently Amended) The signal bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the old member is a backup member and wherein the new member replaces the old member in a backup priority.
- 20. (Original) The signal bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the operations are performed in response to a failure of at least one of the at least one resources.
- 21. (Currently Amended) The signal bearing medium of claim 20, the operations further comprising selecting a new resource to be substituted for the at least one of the at least one resource, and wherein the new member is selected based upon its controlling the a new resource that is selected to be substituted for the at least one of the at least one resources.